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22 May 1981

Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 157

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NEW ZEALAND FINFISH ALLOCATIONS FAVOR LOCAL INDUSTRY

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 1 Apr 81 p 31

[Text]

THE 1981-82 finfish catching allocations for New Zealand fishing grounds emphasise priority for the domestic fleet and joint venture operations at the expense of foreign boats.

Making this clear, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr MacIntyre, said priority was given the domestic fleet, second preference was given joint ventures and foreign licence vessels were largely restricted to more difficult southern waters.

Fees

The allocations, species limits, and scale of fees would ensure that direct competition between the domestic fleet, joint ventures, and foreign licensed vessels was minimised, he said.

"Overall allocations for joint venture vessels and foreign licensed vessels have been reduced slightly.

"Limits have also been set on catch levels for three fish species — hake, silver warehou, and orange roughy.

"The allocation for the joint venture fleet has been reduced by 16,000 tonnes. This is, however, still well above the level of last year's actual catch, and there is provision to increase the allocation slightly for some species in some areas if it becomes necessary," Mr MacIntyre said.

"In allocating catches the Government has been careful to preserve the most desirable fishing areas and target species for the domestic and joint venture fleets. The 'new' species now being exploited by joint venture operators in area D have been largely reserved for them.

Rougher

"Foreign licensed vessels are again in the main confined to the rougher fishing waters to the south of the South Island. These are areas which would not be fished to any extent as yet by the New Zealand-based fleet.

"Again, only three foreign countries have been offered allocations. Russia is being offered the same allocation as last year. Japan has been offered a total of 76,000 tonnes, 50,000 in southern waters, the balance spread through several other areas. Korea has been offered 4500 tonnes, some in the south, and the rest in areas D, E, and F."

All three countries had yet to confirm acceptance of all or part of these allocations, Mr MacIntyre said. In the past, actual catches had fallen short of allocation, which were based on estimated sustainable yields.

Effort

"The 20,000 tonne drop in total allocations for finfish other than tuna reflects the Government's desire to continue the consolidation of catching effort.

"We are anxious to see that our fisheries resources are managed carefully, and in a way that allows sustained harvesting for years to come.

"The Fisheries Industries Board has estimated that the domestic fleet will catch about 90,000 tonnes of finfish in the 1981-82 season. This estimate has been accepted by Government," Mr MacIntyre said.

CSO: 5200

JAPAN SEEKS LARGER FISHING QUOTAS IN NEW ZEALAND WATERS

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 8 Apr 81 p 16

[Report from Tokyo by Bruce Roscoe]

[Excerpts] New Zealand may find itself in a new bargaining position for increased exports of agricultural products to Japan in talks being held in Tokyo today between the New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr MacIntyre, and his Japanese counterpart, Mr Takao Kameoka.

Today Mr MacIntyre will be asked by the Japanese minister, whose portfolio is agriculture, forestry and fisheries, to revise what he terms New Zealand's severe restrictions on Japanese fishing operations within the exclusive New Zealand 200-mile zone.

In an interview in Tokyo, the Japanese minister made clear that Japan would be receptive to "greatly increased" sales of New Zealand lamb and stated that New Zealand beef exports could grow if only New Zealand would enhance its international competitiveness.

Mr Kameoka also said that New Zealand dairy exports could expand if the expansion was gradual and on a mutually agreed basis.

Yet fishing is the topic which appears to be of most concern to the Japanese minister in the talks with Mr MacIntyre, and also in talks he will have with the Prime Minister, Mr Muldoon, in Tokyo next Thursday.

Moderate

Although the Japanese ministry has not indicated it will consider accepting previous New Zealand arguments for linking access for farm products to easing restriction on Japanese fishing, the renewed Japanese concern over access to the New Zealand zone clearly suggests that New Zealand can now exercise its bargaining power.

"Over the next 10 years our livestock industry will not expand at the pace it has in the past. The expansion will be moderate and we predict a domestic shortage for a number of farm products which will require increased imports," said Mr Kameoka.

"I recognise that New Zealand is dependent on its exports of agricultural products and intend to deal with agricultural, forestry and fisheries matters between our two countries in accordance with the contents of that agreement.

"I want to explain to Mr MacIntyre and to Mr Muldoon, however, the social and political complexities of Japanese agriculture and at the same time have a frank chat about New Zealand's agricultural industry. Through these talks we can deepen mutual understanding of each other's problems in the interest of a long-term economic relationship.

Age of 40

"But I would point out that our fishing industry is facing extremely severe restrictions for operating in New Zealand waters. I want to discuss the possibility of revising our catch quotas, licensing fees and other conditions."

CSO: 5200

NEW ZEALAND EXPELS TAIWANESE GILL-NET FISHING VESSEL

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 3 Apr 81 p 12

[Text]

PA Nelson

The Taiwanese gill-net vessel Kao Cheng No. 22 has been ordered out of New Zealand waters after dolphin and whale remains were discovered on board when the vessel visited Nelson recently.

Nelson fisheries' officers found two common dolphins and the cut-up remains of a southern pilot whale after they boarded the 370-tonne vessel.

"We believe the skipper had acted in good faith and was not aware of what he was doing," the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' chief fisheries officer, Mr Ron Munday, said from Wellington.

"For this reason, he was ordered home and no prosecution was considered."

The Kao Cheng No. 22 was one of six vessels engaged in experimental squid netting in a joint venture with the Nelson-based Solander Fisheries, Ltd.

The dolphins and pilot whale were part of the by-catch caught in the gill nets, which are set in a line up to 20 km long.

Under the Marine Mammals Act, anybody accidentally injuring or killing a mammal must report this to a fisheries officer within 24 hours of entering port.

"The captain obviously was not aware of this, or he would not have come into port with the remains on board," Mr Munday said.

"The meat was intended for crew consumption. There was no hint that they had a market for it or were deliberately setting out to hunt the mammals."

The dolphin and whale remains were seized before the vessel was expelled and are being stored in deep freeze in Nelson for further studies.

"They will eventually be taken to the Dominion Museum" Mr Munday said.

Since the experimental squid venture began in January, catches have been disappointing and some areas have been closed to the vessels because they have exceeded the 25 per cent by-catch set by the Ministry.

One area closed to them was the West Coast where the vessels were catching too many abacore tuna.

The joint venture's New Zealand partner, Solander Fisheries, Ltd, is a new company. Its managing director is former chief executive of Sealord, Mr Charles Hufflett. Other shareholders are Mr Peter Talley of Talley Fisheries, Ltd, and a Nelson businessman, Mr R. H. Potton.

CSO: 5200

BRIEFS

GIPPSLAND BASIN DRILLING--News Corporation Ltd, Thomas Nationwide Transport and Shell group have joined the list of companies seeking permits to search for oil and gas in Bass Strait. The Melbourne-based explorer, Mincorp Ltd, announced to the stock exchange yesterday it was part of a consortium applying for two drilling permits in the offshore Gippsland Basin. Mincorp has a 5 per cent interest in the consortium, Shell 40 per cent, News Corporation and TNT, 20 per cent each and Crusader Oil, 15 per cent. News Corporation is involved in two petroleum exploration permit areas in the Officer Basin, Western Australia where it has a 50 per cent interest. The group has an indirect interest in other petroleum exploration areas through its interest in Ansett Transport Industries. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 23 Apr 81 p 22]

TUNA FISHING RESOLUTION--South-coast tuna fishermen now have a market for the whole of their catch, according to a WA fish dealer. The executive director of West Ocean Canning Pty Ltd, Mr Victor Kailis, said that the company had negotiated new markets for tuna in Australia. In previous years local canneries had to import fish to meet the demand on the local market, Mr Kailis said yesterday. This year was the first when canneries were faced with a surplus. West Ocean had contacted all the people who bought tuna from the company and negotiated an increase in the quantity they would take this year. It would buy all the tuna caught on the south coast till the end of the season a few weeks hence. He said his company would pay fishermen with whom it had longstanding arrangements $800 a tonne for all the fish within their allocated quota. The rest of the catch over the quota, and all the tuna caught by other fishermen, would be received at $680 a tonne. At that price the boats could still operate at a profit, he asserted. [Excerpt [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 23 Apr 81 p 11]

CSO: 5200/7533

PLANNED OCEAN PANEL WILL STRENGTHEN COAST GUARD

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Apr 81 p 10

[Text] New Delhi, April 12.

The Union Government's decision to set up a new department of ocean development to be followed by the establishment of an ocean commission to safeguard the nation's maritime interests in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of 320 km has been well received by the different quarters concerned with the security aspect and the ocean sciences, exploration and engineering.

The Navy and the Coast Guard are looking after matters relating to the security of maritime interests in the exclusive economic zone where there is recurrent intrusion by foreign fishing vessels.

One of the functions of the Coast Guard is to assist the customs and other authorities in anti-smuggling activities. It is waiting to be equipped with patrolling vessels and aircraft.

An offer from the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for coast guard duty is under the consideration of the Government. Recently the Coast Guard and the naval vessels in the north Arabian Sea apprehended eight poaching Taiwanese trawlers. The Government's decision to set up a high-powered ocean commission will strengthen the organisation.

The first task: As far as the exploration and development of ocean resources are concerned, the first task of the new department will be to integrate the different agencies engaged in the job. How such integration could be attempted has been examined in a study carried out by Capt. M. K. Mukherjee, Deputy Director of the Naval Sciences and Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam.

The study says it will be necessary to set up a central institute of ocean sciences to develop the technology required to exploit the resources covering several disciplines as zoological sciences, marine technology, offshore oil and mineral exploration, diving, ocean thermal energy studies, etc.

The expertise required for these different purposes will have to be assembled from the different existing centres and properly organised. A team of professors, scientists and engineers is needed to conduct the teaching and training programmes

in the institutes. The assistance of international organisations must also be sought, the study says.

Since Visakhapatnam has a naval base and a shipyard, it will be an ideal location for the proposed institute.

CSO: 5200/7045

ESTIMATES OF FISHERIES RESOURCES BELIEVED TOO HIGH

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 16 Apr 81 p 13

[Text]

ESTIMATES of what New Zealand's fisheries resources can yield may be too high according to the Commission for the Future.

In a paper written for the commission, Mr Russell Armitage, of the Fishing Industry Board, said that recent annual catch figures in New Zealand waters fell well below the highest yield of 500 000 tonnes in 1977.

In the last three years 300 000 tonnes have been caught annually.

"This may indicate that the biological estimates of what the resource can yield are either too high or well beyond economically sustainable operations."

The paper added that although the industry has a good technological base there was a severe shortage of investment capital in fishing boats.

Investment was difficult to attract because of the high risk and uncertainty, a need for more sophisticated equipment and product development in some parts of the processing side of the industry.

Mr Armitage said an extra $2000 million would need to be invested in vessels if most of the sustainable yield in the 200-mile exclusive economic zone, with the exception of the southern area, was taken by New Zealanders rather than by joint ventures or licensing agreements.

This investment would provide employment on boats for a further 1000 people and an extra 4000 people in processing, more than two and a half times the present level of employment in processing.

At the moment the industry contributed about $160 million a year to export receipts but Mr Armitage's paper said this could increase to $300 million during the decade if there was adequate investment and training.

CSO: 5200

BIDS FOR OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION OVERWHELM GOVERNMENT

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 1 Apr 81 p 4

[Report by energy reporter Michael Field]

[Text]

Around 60 international oil companies — including most of the major ones — are competing for rights to explore for oil off the Taranaki coast and south to Greymouth.

The response has surprised Government officials, who now find themselves overwhelmed by the paperwork.

Last year the Government advertised internationally in oil industry magazines, calling on oil companies to make bids for rights to explore in selected offshore blocks.

Applications closed on February 15.

In a speech yesterday to the Institute of Management, the Minister of Energy, Mr Birch, said the response from the industry world-wide had been overwhelming.

"I expect that a programme involving abut $100 million per annum in offshore exploring will be maintained for some years ahead," he said.

Ministry of Energy sources said today that many of the applicants had suomitted work programmes which included offshore drilling.

The blocks being offered are between Kawhia Harbour and Greymouth, in geological territory known as the western marginal geosyncline. The geosyncline includes the Maui, Kapuni, and McKee fields.

Officials at the ministry are now evaluating the proposals and an announcement on the successful companies is expected early next month.

One major issue to resolve before a final decision is taken is the role of the state in any programme. Under the Petroleum Act, the state, through the Petroleum Corporation, has the right to share in the exploration. Whether Petrocorp will take up this right will have to be settled before any decision is taken.

CSO: 5200

AGREEMENT TO ASSURE SURVEILLANCE OF FISHING RESOURCES

[Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 28-29 Mar 81 p 1]

[Article by Ibrahima Fall: "A 2.2 Billion Canadian Grant"]

[Text] Yesterday Amadou Lamine Alexandrenne, Plan and Cooperation Minister, and Mayo Haynes, Canadian Ambassador to Senegal, initialed an agreement protocol and a detailed operational plan for the "Protection and Surveillance of Fishing Resources" project. The purpose of the project is to set up an integrated system which will ensure the protection and surveillance of our fishing resources within the 200 mile zone. It will also make possible the protection of marine fauna and provide greater and more effective aid to navigation and to ships in distress. The Canadian contribution will total 2.2 billion CFA francs. Our country's contribution, in salaries and logistical support, is assessed at 283.8 million CFA francs. The project will be implemented in two stages and in three different areas: operational, administrative and scientific. The first will involve the delivery of two Twin Otter airplanes for aerial surveillance of coastal areas. The airplanes will report to the national navy the locations of foreign vessels and will gather the necessary data for a thorough study of the development of fish resources.

The administrative section will set up the central service for statistical information and inspection, which will ensure the enforcement of maritime regulations. The scientific section will provide a continuing evaluation of the nature and extent of variable fishing resources and of their optimum exploitation level.

We must point out the beneficial impact which this project will have on the overall development of our maritime fishing on the individual, semi-industrial and industrial levels.

In a speech delivered following the signing ceremony, thanking the Canadian government, Amadou Alexandrenne expressed his satisfaction with the appreciated Canadian help in the fishing sector. He recalled Canada's continuing aid in this area which covers a great variety of sectors, such as the modernization of individual fishing, education, and the installation of refrigeration facilities which are a valuable asset for the preservation of highly perishable goods. The Minister of Plan and Cooperation emphasized the great importance of the fishing sector and emphasized the imperative need to provide better conditions for the protection and preservation of our fishing resources. He expressed the great gratitude felt by the Senegalese

people toward the Canadian Government. Alexandrenne declared himself pleased also by the vitality and dynamism of the cooperation between our two countries. He expressed the wish to see it reinforced as a result of the forthcoming meeting of the mixed commission.

In return, Ambassador Marc Perron emphasized the importance of fishing resources for the Senegal, bearing in mind its current circumstances. He emphasized the need for their improved preservation through permanent control. Canada's contribution to the surveillance of our coastal areas is part of this effort. Marc Perron also expressed his conviction that the next meeting of the Canadian-Senegalese mixed commission will make a more fruitful and harmonious contribution to the cooperation between our two countries.

5157
CSO: 5200/4947

FRENCH FISHERIES COOPERATION REPORTED

Victoria NATION in French 25 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Tuna Boats Return to France but Fishing Continues"]

[Text] An agreement signed between the representatives of the Seychelles and the French government defined future cooperation with France in our country's fishing industry.

Following this agreement, France will continue its aid with respect to research in order to find methods better suited to the fish of our fishing industry

The minister for planning and development, Dr Maxime Ferrari, who signed this agreement for the Seychelles, explained that rod fishing has not been a success and that following these inadequate results the four tuna boats--the Aldabra, the Assomption, the Astove and the Alphonse--will return to France, but fishing will continue.

The agreement was signed for the French side by Christian Joudiou, the director of economic development of the French Ministry of Cooperation.

The minister for planning and development indicated that the tuna boats will be returned, but France will begin research on the tuna and live bait in Seychelles waters, research which was not done before the acquisition of the tuna boats, as well as other projects. The research will be performed by OSTROM, a French research firm, two experts from which will arrive shortly in Victoria.

"This will set us back two or three steps," Minister Ferrari continued, "but at the same time this will help us make better progress."

Retracing the history of tuna fishing, the minister emphasized that it has always had problems. "Since the beginning of the struggle, the SPUP [Seychelles Peoples United Party], which became the SPPF [Seychellois People's Progressive Front], always put emphasis on the development of our fishing industry.

"After the 5 June Revolution, a cooperation treaty was signed with France which was willing to help us in this field."

The minister for planning and development continued, "Being very enthusiastic, we started too fast; we wanted to have a tuna industry, canned tuna, etc., right away.

"The four tuna boats were acquired, two as a gift and the other two as loans which we accepted.

"We benefited from the technical assistance of the French fishing boats," he said.

"But since their arrival, approximately a year ago, these four tuna boats have obtained poor results, and for several months we have noted that the situation was deteriorating."

Minister Ferrari continued, stressing that the Seychelles government had then talked matters over with its French partners and the latter had granted new credits to continue this project.

Finally, he said, it was clear that the project was not going to work and France did not want to contribute to such a project. For us, he continued, a project which is not profitable is of no interest.

"This week a French delegation came to Seychelles. It was headed by Mr Joudion, with whom we had friendly discussions, and we were able to identify the source of our problems."

The discussions resulted in the return of the tuna boats and the continuation of the research in the field of fishing.

The OSTROM firm will perform its research using a small tuna boat and live bait. Other equipment will also be placed on board the airplane "Defender" in order to follow the movements of the tunas.

A seiner will also arrive with the research operation, since seining has proven fruitful in our water following the experiment by the boat the Ile de Sein which performed research very recently.

For the fishermen who were trained on board the tuna boats, France will grant to Seychelles Fr 3 million (approximately 4 million rupees) for requisitioning the small boats which they will use.

France will also allocate approximately 500,000 rupees for launching a new fishing enterprise and for the construction of research offices.

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